AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 7-15, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Please amend the following claims as indicated:

1. (Amended once) A method for removing a layer of an oil contaminant from the surface of an aqueous solution, comprising:

providing

a solution contaminated by oil as a result of an industrial activity, and

a surface skimmer which can be manually controlled from a remote location; and

manually controlling the surface skimmer to remove a layer of oil by the skimmer, wherein the skimmer operates by means of negative pressure.

Please add the following new claims:

16. (New) A method for removing a layer of an oil contaminant from the surface of an aqueous solution, comprising:

providing

a solution contaminated by oil as a result of an industrial activity, and

a surface skimmer which does not utilize water ballasts and which can be manually controlled from a remote location; and

manually controlling the surface skimmer to remove a layer of oil by the skimmer.

17. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the industrial activity is selected from the group consisting of parts cleaning and washing, cutting and grinding, die casting, metal plating, heat treating, surface finishing, pressure washing, steam cleaning, cooling, lubricating, cleaning, and food processing.

18. (New) A method according to Claim 16, where the solution is enclosed in a tank at a location of the industrial activity.

19. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the oil comprises hydraulic oils, surface finishing oils, quench oils, way oils, cutting, grinding and hobbing oils, and oils derived from food sources.

20. (New) A method according to Claim 16, further comprising separating the aqueous solution from the oil contaminant removed from the solution surface.

21. (New) A method according to Claim 16, further comprising separating the aqueous solution from the oil contaminant removed from the solution surface, wherein the industrial activity is selected from the group consisting of parts cleaning and washing, cutting and grinding, die casting, metal plating, heat treating, surface finishing, pressure washing, steam cleaning, cooling, lubricating, cleaning, and food processing, wherein the solution is enclosed in a tank at a location of the industrial activity, wherein the oil comprises hydraulic oils, surface finishing oils, quench oils, way oils, cutting, grinding and hobbing oils, and oils derived from food sources.

22. (New) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the skimmer does not utilize water ballasts.

23. (New) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the industrial activity is selected from the group consisting of parts cleaning and washing, cutting and grinding, die casting, metal plating, heat treating, surface finishing, pressure washing, steam cleaning, cooling, lubricating, cleaning, and food processing.

24. (New) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the oil comprises hydraulic oils, surface finishing oils, quench oils, way oils, cutting, grinding and hobbing oils, and oils derived from food sources.

25. (New) A method a[redacted]ccording to Claim 22, further comprising separating the aqueous solution from the oil contam[redacted]inant removed from the solution surface.

26. (New) A method acco[redacted]rding to Claim 22, further comprising separating the aqueous solution from the oil contamina[redacted]t removed from the solution surface, wherein the industrial activity is selected from the group[redacted] consisting of parts cleaning and washing, cutting and grinding, die casting, metal plating, heat trea[redacted]ting, surface finishing, pressure washing, steam cleaning, cooling, lubricating, cleaning, and fo[redacted]od processing, wherein the solution is enclosed in a tank at a location of the industrial activity, whe[redacted]rein the oil comprises hydraulic oils, surface finishing oils, quench oils, way oils, cutting, grinding[redacted] and hobbing oils, and oils derived from food sources.

27. (New) A method for removing a [redacted]layer of an oil contaminant from the surface of an aqueous solution, comprising:

providing

a solution contaminated by oil as a [redacted]result of an industrial activity, and

a surface skimmer which can be man[redacted]ually controlled from a remote location, and

manually controlling the surface skimmer[redacted] to remove a layer of oil by the skimmer,

wherein the skimmer comprises a hollow tube [redacted]with two ends and two openings,

wherein a first opening is a skimmer inle[redacted]t, where the inlet is an opening cut horizontally along the tube, and close to a first end w[redacted]hich is closed,

and wherein a second opening is a skimme[redacted]r outlet, and is a second end which is open and which can be connected to the conduit.

28. (New) The method of Claim 27, wherein the [redacted]skimmer operates by means of negative pressure.

29. (New) A method for removing a layer of an oil conta[redacted]minant from the surface of an aqueous solution, comprising:

providing

a solution contaminated by oil as a result of an indust[redacted]rial activity, and

a surface skimmer which can be manually controlled fr[redacted]om a remote location, and

manually controlling the surface skimmer to remove a layer of oil by the skimmer,

wherein the skimmer comprises

a hollow tube with two ends and two openings,

where a first end of the tube is partially closed and comprises an inlet, where the inlet extends along the tube from the partially closed first end,

and where a second end of the tube is open and comprises an outlet,

and further where the tube is angled between the first and the second end.

30. (New) The method of Claim 29, wherein the skimmer operates by means of negative pressure.

31. (New) A method for removing a layer of an oil contaminant from the surface of an aqueous solution, comprising:

providing

a solution contaminated by oil as a result of an industrial activity, and

a surface skimmer which can be manually controlled from a remote location; and manually controlling the surface skimmer to remove a layer of oil by the skimmer,

wherein the oil contaminant comprises at least one of: a particle of metal, rust, dirt, or soot; a microorganism contaminant; a mixture of more than one oil; an additive of an emulsifier, friction reducer, or defoamer; or an acid or base.

32. (New) A method for removing a layer of an oil contaminant from the surface of an aqueous solution, comprising:

providing

a solution contaminated by oil as a result of an industrial activity, and

a surface skimmer which can be manually controlled from a remote location; and manually controlling the surface skimmer to remove a layer of oil by the skimmer,

wherein a source oil of the oil contaminant is a mixture of at least one oil and at least one additive and is manufactured or blended for an industrial activity.